

2-2013

# Maine Conservation Connection, February 2013

Maine Conservation Corps

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# Maine Conservation Connection

## Maine Conservation Corps



## February 2013



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### Changes at Maine Conservation Corps

We would like to announce that Jo Orlando has been hired as the new Director of the Maine Conservation Corps. Jo has served as the Maine Conservation Corps' Volunteer Service Coordinator for the Environmental Educator program for the past 7 years. During that time, the program has expanded from 15 members to over thirty members last year. She will be overseeing the entire program placing members at state agencies and non-profits to assist with outdoor recreation projects, conservation education and volunteer opportunities. Jo's demonstrated enthusiasm and commitment to the program, and her proven track record of success, will serve us well as she takes over the leadership of MCC.

Bryan Kalleberg will be the Volunteer Services Coordinator who will now oversee the Veteran Community Leader Program, the Environmental Steward Program and the Environmental Educator Program. For the past three years Bryan has been overseeing the Maine Conservation Corps Field Team Program and has worked for the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for over 20 years.

Sara Knowles has been hired as the new Volunteer Services Coordinator for the MCC field team program. Sara has had several years of experience with Maine Conservation Corps with previous positions as a team leader, Volunteer Services Coordinator, and as Acting Director of the Maine Conservation Corps in 2012.

## **MCC Environmental Educators Start Service**

Earlier this winter, the MCC welcomed 7 MCC Environmental Educators. Environmental Educators are AmeriCorps volunteers serving 900 or 1700 hour terms at non-profit and state organizations across the state.

**Janet Gorman** of Media, PA is serving 1700 hours with the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Wells. Gorman is a 2012 graduate of the University of New Hampshire, where she studied Environmental Studies and Forestry.

**Rebecca Stanley** of Castleton, NY is serving 1700 hours with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in Portland. Stanley previously served with the MCC as a Team Member in 2011, and again in 2012 as an Assistant Team Leader. She is a 2007 graduate of Cornell University where she studied Natural Resources.

**Bri Rudinsky** of Seven Valleys, PA is serving 1700 hours with the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Wells. Rudinsky is a 2012 graduate of Unity College, where she studied Wildlife/Zoology.

**Katie Nemmer** of Hamburg, NY is serving 1700 hours with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in Augusta. Nemmer previously served with the MCC as an Environmental Educator in 2012. She is a 2007 graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology where she studied new media design, and a 2012 graduate of Erie Community College where she studied Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

**Shannon White** of Sherrill, NY is serving 900 hours at the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory in Salisbury Cove. White is a 2010 graduate of SUNY Geneseo, where she studied Biology and Environmental studies. White also earned her Master of Science in Marine Environmental Protection from Bangor University, North Wales, UK in 2012.

**Natalie Marceau** of Searsmont, ME is serving 900 hours with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in Augusta. She is a 2008 graduate of Belfast Area High School and a 2012 graduate of the University of Maine, where she studied Biology and Chemistry.

**Emma Fox** of Fairfield, CT is serving 900 hours at the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory in Salisbury Cove. Fox previously served as an MCC Environmental Educator in 2012. She is a 2012 graduate of Saint Michael's College where she studied biology.

## Trail Training Academy Begins with Six Trainers



The MCC's Trail Training Academy began on February 11 of this year, with a class of six Trail Trainers. They will go on to be Team Leaders for the 2013 season.

**Roy Kresge**, of Jaffrey, NH is a 2009 graduate of Conant High School and a 2012 graduate of Wheaton College where he studied mathematics. Roy previously served with the MCC as a team member during the 2010 and 2011 seasons.

**Savannah Steele**, of Newburg, OR. Steele is a 2004 graduate of Newberg High School and a 2011 graduate of the University of Oregon where she studied biology. Steele previously served as a Team Member with the MCC in 2012.

**Jared Ress**, of Richmond, VA, attended Columbia High School and is a 2007 graduate of Shimer College where he studied natural science. Ress previously served as an Assistant Team Leader with the MCC in 2012.

**Josiah Gray**, of Yarmouth, ME, is a 2006 graduate of Yarmouth High School and a 2010 graduate of the University of Southern Maine where he studied History. Gray previously served as a Senior Youth Crew Leader with the Montana Conservation Corps in 2010-2012.

**Amy Freund**, of Howards Grove, WI, is a 2006 graduate of Howards Grove High School and a 2012 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stout where she studied Graphic Communications Management. Freund previously served in the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps in 2010 and 2012.

**Emily Wilmers**, of Cincinnati, OH, is a 2007 graduate of Clark Montessori and a 2012 graduate of Warren Wilson College, where she studied Global Studies.

This year's training topics include, among many other things, a Wilderness First Aid certification course form SOLO, GPS training, chainsaw safety, and Leave No Trace Trainer certification.

## **Veteran Community Leader Program Gets Off the Ground**



The MCC is VERY excited to welcome our first class of Veteran Community Leaders. This brand new program for Veterans of the Armed Services combines a rigorous skills-based training program with leadership development designed to take advantage of the military veteran's unique leadership skills and experience. Meet our 2013 Veteran Community Leaders:

**James Browne**, of Georgetown, ME, a veteran of the United States Navy and the United States Army National Guard, is a 1976 graduate of the New Hampton School.

**Dylan Cookson**, of Corinna, ME, a veteran of the United States Army Reserve, is a 2006 graduate of Nokomis Regional High School and a 2011 graduate of the University of Maine where he studied Wildlife Ecology.

**James Weston**, of Machias, ME, a veteran of the United States Navy, is a 1981 graduate of Milford Area Senior High School in Milford, NH, and is currently attending the University of Maine at Machias, where he studies Recreational Tourism.

**Jake Skakal**, originally of Olathe, KS, now a resident of Augusta, ME, is a veteran of the United States Navy. He is a 1997 graduate of Lawrence High School and a 2013 graduate of California State University-Bakersfield, where he studied Liberal Studies.

**Michael Duley**, of Wells, ME, a veteran of the United States Air Force, is a 1991 graduate of Wells High School and a 2008 graduate of the Community College of the Air Force, where he studied Information Systems Management.

After their training program is completed, the Veteran community Leaders will be placed with host sites around the state, where they will serve as community volunteer coordinators, leaders, and project planners with a special focus on conservation and trails.



## MCC Welcomes New Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

The Maine Conservation Corps is pleased to welcome Amber Hardy as the new Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator. Here is a short message from Amber:

I was born and raised here in Maine, mostly in the northern part of the state, but I also spent time in the Portland and Bangor areas growing up. I now make my home in the Portland area and I am proud and happy to call Maine my home. I came to be an outdoor enthusiast rather late, only beginning to really appreciate the outdoor opportunities we have in Maine in the last 5 years or so. Having gone through several starts and stops in college, I finally completed my degree in Environmental Science a couple of years ago and joined the MCC in 2012 as an Environmental Educator. I spent the summer performing trail assessments all over the state, and got to see and experience many of the most beautiful areas Maine has in conservation. I am excited to be continuing my service to the MCC as the Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator and look forward to the challenges and triumphs of the coming months.



## MLK Day



In celebration of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, the MCC's Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, Amber Hardy, participated in an education event at the Ocean Avenue School in Portland. The event was organized by the Maine Interfaith Youth Alliance and Artists for Social Change. Several hundred people attended the event's activities, which included a drumming circle, food, storytelling, music, and art. Amber reports that the kids did a great job on the mural and that she had a great time helping

with the painting and cleaning up after. "It was good to step into a different role and do some non-conservation related service. The kids were great and so were the parents," she says.

## Volunteer of the Month: Tommy Esson



Tommy Esson is the Maine Conservation Corps' February Volunteer of the Month. He is an outstanding asset to the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Wells. A recent graduate from Virginia Tech, he volunteers multiple times a month through both coordinated events and by taking the initiative and calling and seeing if help is needed. He has assisted the Refuge's MCC Environmental Educators Janet Gorman and Bri Rudinsky in completing many projects. Tommy has completed vegetation

surveys in the snow, photo monitoring on some of the coldest days of the year and most recently helped create "rabitat" for the State endangered New England cottontail by felling nearly 20 trees. His commitment to service is some of the best the Refuge has seen. As a result, he is chosen as our outstanding Volunteer of the Month.

## MCC Welcomes New Training Coordinators

The MCC recently welcomed **Krista Rogers** and **Tyler Keniston** as the 2013 Training Coordinators.

Tyler most recently served with the MCC as a Team Leader. He brings a knowledgeable, cool, calm instruction style and friendly disposition to the training program. Here is a message from Tyler:

I joined the Maine Conservation Corps in 2011 as a Field Team Member. Prior to joining, I was only vaguely aware of the existence of trail work, but it didn't take long for me to realize that trail work combines some of my most valued aspects of life: being outside in beautiful places, working hard both mentally and physically, and spending time getting to know great people. Oh and eating huge quantities of food because you need to. I grew up in Maine in the near-by town of Readfield and was raised, if not born, an adventurer. Multiple day family canoe trips on such rivers as the Allagash, Penobscot, and St.



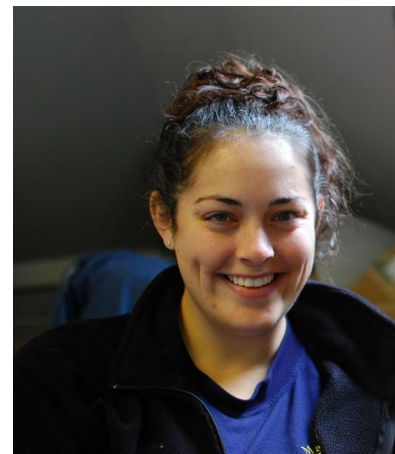
Tyler Keniston, MCC training  
Coordinator

Croix are responsible for some of my most fond childhood memories. In college I studied environmental science and further delved into the world of outdoor adventuring through such endeavors as rock climbing and winter camping. Working at the college's outdoor adventure program, I had the opportunity to lead others through the backcountry and up the cliff sides of Maine. Post college, I decided I would like to continue spending time in Maine's woods, and at the same time give back to the trails I used and loved so much. The transition into the world of trail work seemed a natural next step. After two seasons with the MCC as a field team member and two seasons as a field team leader, I am now more excited than ever to be back with the MCC as the Trail Training Coordinator. I look forward to learning and sharing with others the trail experience.

Krista Rogers previously held the position of Senior Team Leader. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to her new role. Here is a message from Krista:

I grew up in the Maine State Park system, living as a daughter of a State Park Manager. My sisters and I used our State Park backyards to explore, volunteer, and learn from a young age. During and after attending Mount Holyoke College, I worked in State Parks in various capacities and locations. I studied Geology and Biology at MHC, and contemplated continuing on to grad school, but Maine drew me back.

I had exposure through my childhood and working in parks with the Maine Conservation Corps, and in February 2010 I began as a Trail Trainer with MCC's Trail Training Academy. I was a leader for two seasons, working in Baxter State Park, on the Wright Trail, Deboullie, Mount Blue, and in Monmouth. In 2011, I worked as a Trail Crew Leader for Baxter State Park for two seasons, which was an amazing experience. I worked with some fantastic staff, interns, and volunteer groups, and in one of Maine's most beautiful places.



Krista Rogers, MCC Training Coordinator

In 2012, I returned to the MCC as a Senior Team Leader. I spent the summer and fall seasons learning the ins and outs of the Field Team program. I had the opportunity to travel all over Maine and work with so many different people. I thoroughly enjoyed all the varying group dynamics, leadership styles, and also the type of work that I was exposed to.

I'm excited to be back with the MCC as a Training Coordinator for the all-new Veteran Community Leader program, and look forward to all that will be accomplished.